

NEW NATIONAL ERA AND CITIZEN.

VOL. IV.—NO. 42.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1873

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COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES.

[The New National Era does not hold itself responsible
for views expressed by correspondents. Well-written and
interesting communications will be gladly received.]

From Virginia.

RICHMOND, Oct. 16, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

Very quietly and briefly was the work of
nominating a Republican ticket for the Le-
gislature done yesterday at a popular club-
room in this city. Messrs. Woody, Snyder,
J. Harner Gilmer, R. M. Manly, and John
Rankin are the gentlemen nominated. Several
of the candidates are well known outside
the State, and all are believed to be the very
best men on whom the choice of the party
could fall. Mr. Manly has been quietly en-
gaged in his work as Principal of the High
School here, and has never been an active
politician, although he is at present a mem-
ber of the City Council and of the School
Board in this city. It remains to be seen,
however, whether he will excite much enthu-
siasm, or aid the success of the ticket in more
substantial ways.

J. H. Gilmer is an old citizen and lawyer,
and is popular all through the State as an
earnest Republican. He is an effective
speaker, and has a catching style that adds
much to his popularity as a "stumper."

The laboring men are well represented in
the persons of the other candidates.

It is too early now to gather any precise
idea of what the feeling in the party is with
regard to the success of this ticket. I do not
think it could have been greatly improved,
since the policy of both parties seems to be
to run such men as may have the least said
against them.

Our true and well-approved Republicans
here are somewhat disturbed by the presence
in the field of an independent candidate
(Republican) whose name is Nathaniel Wil-
liams. Mr. Williams is the sole proprietor
of a hotel here. He is a noisy, obtrusive,
and dictatorial old man, with no knowledge
of the English language or Virginia politics.
He establishes his claim on this ground:
that, as no colored man appears on the regu-
lar ticket, it is but due to the majority, which
consists of colored men, that a representative
of that race should go to the Legislature.
Whatever may be the absolute merit of this
plea, it is unquestionably certain that Mr.
Williams is sadly incompetent. Indeed, I
admit at a loss to account for the delusion which
induces him to cherish an ambition like this.

The only reasonable ground of fear about
this matter is, that Mr. Williams, being a
hotel keeper, can command resources of a
very potent and inspiring character, under
the influence of which some men espouse bad
causes and do bad things.

Non. C. H. Chandler addressed a large
meeting at the Old African Church on Tues-
day night. Mr. Chandler is the happiest
speaker in the State, and few can equal him
in holding the attention of an audience. His
speech edified everybody. Many of the facts
were new to the audience, and the statement
of them carried conviction to every mind.

Political calculations are proverbially de-
ceptive; but the campaign is making encourag-
ing progress, and promises success to our
State ticket. The negro is the bone of con-
tention, the apple of discord, in this contest.
The Conservative press indulges in the most
abusive, acrimonious, and harsh language
toward the colored voter. There has been
nothing to raise this issue—no threat, no
conduct on the part of our people to justify
this treatment. But the animus of the whole
party is hatred to the negro as a citizen.

"They (negroes) are not fit to hold any office in
this country," is the formulated platform and
policy of this Virginia Conservative party.
Even if the negro is the wretch and the vagabond
they say he is, are they not estopped
from reproaching him with it, since they
caused it all? And if his presence and
power as a voter are such a "calamity," is it
not a merited punishment on them? Have
not the fathers eaten sour grapes, and is it
wonderful that the children's teeth are set on
edge?

The Freedman's Bank here has not re-
sumed payment yet. Many of the depositors
are dissatisfied, but it would take more time
and paper than I can spare to tell you why.

Mr. Gillispie Anderson, of Washington, is
here, and is in political business, having been
chosen an alternate to the nominating con-
vention yesterday.

ELIZABETH CITY COUNTY, VA.,
October 10, 1873.

A meeting of the laborers employed by the
United States Engineer Department at Fort
Monroe, Virginia, was held at the store of
Harry Libby, Esq., on Wednesday evening,
October 8, 1873, for the purpose of
giving an expression of thanks to the Hon.
James H. Platt, Jr., for his valuable services
in having the pay of the laboring men em-
ployed in this department placed on an equal
footing with the pay of the same class of men
employed in the other departments of the
Government at this Fort.

On motion of Lewis Myers, Esq., Colonel
John H. Price was called to the chair, and
John Payne, Esq., was requested to act as
secretary. The chair was requested to ap-
point a committee of three for the purpose of
drafting a series of resolutions indorsing and
thanking the Hon. James H. Platt, Jr., for
this act of justice done them through him.

The following were appointed the committee,
viz., Mr. William Pressy, chairman; Mr.
R. Bowen, Mr. Solomon Reed, who retired,
and returned with the following preamble
and resolutions, which were unanimously
adopted:

Whereas the Hon. James H. Platt, Jr.,
M. C. from the Second Congressional District
of Virginia, has caused the pay of the labor-
ing men employed in the department of the
United States Engineers at Fort Monroe to be
placed at one dollar and fifty cents per
diem, by an order issued directly from the
hands of the Hon. William W. Belknap, Sec-
retary of War, to the Assistant Engineer in
charge of the work here, be it therefore

Resolved, 1st, That we, the laboring men
employed in the Department of the United
States Engineers at Fort Monroe, in meeting

assembled, most earnestly and courteously
tender to the Hon. James H. Platt, Jr., our
sincere thanks for his untiring zeal in our
behalf in thus securing to us this additional
rate of pay, and thereby placing the em-
ployees of this department in unison and har-
mony of feeling with the employees of the
other departments here.

Resolved, 2d, That we also tender to the
Hon. William W. Belknap, Secretary of War,
our earnest appreciation for this act of justice
done for us through the representations made
by our worthy representative, thereby prov-
ing to us the high and enviable position in
which he stands with the heads of the De-
partments at Washington.

Resolved, 3d, That we earnestly request
the Hon. James H. Platt, Jr., to call upon the
Hon. William W. Belknap, Secretary of
War, and present him with a copy of these
resolutions, and in addition thereto to extend
to him our sincere thanks in our behalf.

Resolved, 4th, That the secretary be, and
he is hereby, ordered to furnish the Hon.
James H. Platt, Jr., with five copies of these
resolutions printed.

Resolved, 5th, That the Norfolk Day-Book,
Richmond State Journal, Southern Worker,
and the NEW NATIONAL ERA be requested to
publish the above.

There being no further business, the meet-
ing adjourned sine die.

JOHN H. PRICE, Chairman.
JOHN PAYNE, Secretary.

Letter From New Mexico.

SANTA FE, Oct. 8, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

I propose to call the attention of your
readers to two distinct subjects in my pre-
sent letter, which I trust may prove of some
general interest to those for whom they are
designed.

On the first of last month a general elec-
tion was held in this Territory for delegate
to the Forty-third Congress, and also for
Territorial and county officers. Hon. S. B.
Elkins, of Santa Fe, was the candidate of
the Republican, and Hon. José M. Gallegos,
also of Santa Fe, was the candidate of
the so-called Democratic and Liberal Re-
publican parties.

A long and exciting campaign ensued.
Mr. Elkins was the first American (for all
who come here from the States are so desig-
nated) who had been put up for Congress by
either party in the Territory since the elec-
tion of Hon. John S. Watts, in 1861.

The Hon. José M. Gallegos, popularly
known as the Padre—having once been an
official priest in the church—a native of
the Territory, the pet of the Democracy, and
delegate in the last Congress, was selected
as the strongest man in his ranks to pit
against Mr. Elkins, whom they designated as
a "political adventurer and carpet-bagger."

Mr. Elkins is a native of Ohio,
though reared in Missouri, from which State
he came to this Territory more than ten
years ago, and has been a resident here ever
since, actively engaged in the practice of the
law, and the general improvement of the
Territory.

Though not having had the opportunity
of being born here, or having the opportu-
nity, he failed to improve it, he was com-
pelled to become the recipient of the most
outrageous abuses, in the form of the most
refined, or rather I should say, improved
slang, of which the Democratic stump orators
and press were capable of forcing upon him.

And it is even stated upon good authority
that the Padre, during his canvass through
the country pending the election, publicly
endeavored to array the country people
against Mr. Elkins because he was a *nativo*
del país, but on the contrary, that he was an
American. However, in due time election
day arrived, and the undismayed free citizens
who think for themselves, marched manfully
to the polls and deposited their ballots ac-
cording to the dictates, each of his own con-
science, without being influenced by the fact
as to where either Mr. Elkins or Mr. Gallegos
was born, but solely as to which of the two
candidates more nearly represented the
grand idea of American progress and free
institutions. And the result was a most glo-
rious triumph for the Republicans of New
Mexico, who had been cheated out of their
wonted victory two years before through an
uncalled for division in their ranks, designed
and accomplished through a real political
adventurer who was at that time the pub-
lisher of a paper here which he claimed to be
the only genuine organ of the Republican
party in New Mexico.

The Secretary of the Territory has just
announced the official count of the vote cast
at the late election for delegate to the Forty-
third Congress, which shows the cheering
majority of 3,818 for Hon. S. B. Elkins, the
choice of the Republicans, out of a total vote
of 16,984!

This is decidedly the largest majority with
which any delegate from this Territory has
hitherto been honored.

Mr. Elkins is quite a young man, who
stands at the head of the legal profession of
the Territory, of very temperate habits, and
with unblemished private character, and is
a representative of one of those very rare phe-
nomena, of whom it may be truthfully said
that he is a public man without a private
enemy. He has also had considerable expe-
rience in public life, having been a member
of the Territorial Legislature, Attorney Gen-
eral of the Territory, United States Attorney
for the District of New Mexico, and is at
present President of the First National Bank
of Santa Fe.

During our late political contest a little in-
cident occurred which I think of sufficient
importance to chronicle here, and, though
truly enough, the Democrats sought to con-
nect this affair with the late canvass, yet I
have decided to present it to the public as a
distinct subject of the present letter. Now
it happened thus: Mr. Elkins is a widower,
and just previous to the election he was
called from the city to attend court in one
of the distant counties; and, meanwhile, his
eldest daughter, who is under the charge of
his sister-in-law, was attending a private
school, and it so happened that there was
also a little colored girl attending the same
school at the same time, and, as rumor has
it, when the fact became known to the said
sister-in-law she requested the teacher,

who by the way is a very good Democrat,
not to allow the colored girl to enter the
school; but he failed to recognize her prayer,
whereupon she refused to allow Mr. Elkins'
daughter to continue in school, and said she
would not suffer any of her "blood" to be
taught with "niggers!" This little incident
was vociferously caught up and expatiated
upon by the incorruptible Democracy, in-
tending thereby to dissuade the colored vot-
ers from giving their support to the Republi-
can candidate. However, the affair had the
effect of causing only one single colored vot-
er, the father of the little girl in question,
to deposit a Democratic ticket on election day,
and which was, perhaps, natural enough.

In fact, no one of all the colored voters of
Santa Fe, with the exception above-named,
who knew Mr. Elkins personally, could be
prevailed upon to believe, without positive
proof in the premises, that Mr. Elkins was
really the cause of the withdrawal of his
daughter from school, or that he had at the
time even been advised of the fact. And our
belief in this particular has been fully
sustained, for since the return of Mr. Elkins,
and while in conversation with the mother of
the little colored girl to-day, I learn that the
little daughter of Mr. Elkins is again in at-
tendance at the same school, and that her
daughter is also a regular attendant. I have
referred to this little incident as a separate
subject, because I do not believe that it ne-
cessarily or legitimately pertained to the
rightful business of the campaign, but that
it was only a little extraneous fraud of pure
Democratic conception, with the sole purpose
of frightening true Republicans from the per-
formance of a known and cheerful duty. And
I have thought also that the recital of this
bit of history might be of some interest to
the colored people in general and to those of
the District of Columbia in particular, who
are at present so earnestly engaged in the
attempt to solve the mixed school question,
and bearing as it does so intimately and di-
rectly upon the subject and intent of Mr.
Sumner's Civil Rights Bill, and in view of
the fact also that the Forty-third Congress
is now upon the eve of assembling, and in
all probability, and as I sincerely trust, will
take final and favorable action on the matter
and enact it into a National law before the
close of its first session, and send the Hydra-
headed monster to its eternal rest, to that
sleep from which neither Time nor Eternity
shall ever be competent to arouse it or infuse
into its malarious carcass even the semblance
of animation.

W. W. TATE.

The Campaign in Mississippi.

JACKSON, MISS., Oct. 10, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

Not seeing any direct communication in
your valuable Journal recently from this
State, I thought it would not be amiss to
send you a line or two concerning certain
facts.

Our campaign is progressing in the most
bitter and personal manner. It does not
seem to be a fight for the mastery of certain
principles, but between certain leaders of the
party. The fact of Alcorn's bolting has
brought about more personal vituperation
and abuse than I have ever heard. The
personalities last year between Grant and
Greeley are not to be compared to them.

That Alcorn is decidedly on the wrong
side there does not exist the shadow of a
doubt. And that he is actuated totally by
his personal hatred of Gen. Ames is appar-
ent to every fair minded person. As, at At-
torney General Morris said in a recent
speech, "If we get the Ames ticket we may
get some rascals, but if we get the Alcorn
ticket we are sure to have a goodly number
of them."

CERTAIN ACTIONS OF REPUBLICANS.

There are, however, certain actions of
some of our white Republicans that will cer-
tainly seal their fate in our party, or else seal
the fate of the party itself, by provoking an
irreconcilable division in it—a division not
as Alcorn is working for, but one that
will prove more serious and dangerous in its
effects. For instance, the colored men of
the State demand three places on our State
ticket, viz: Lieutenant Governor, Secretary
of State, and Superintendent of Public Edu-
cation. But I know of certain strenuous ef-
forts and inducements that were made to get
one of our strongest colored candidates for
Lieutenant Governor to withdraw in favor of
one of the white aspirants for the same po-
sition, but he declined doing so. And when
Col. Bruce, one of the most prominent col-
ored men in the State, arrived he was im-
mediately importuned by some of our white
and colored Republicans to enter the field for
the position of Lieutenant Governor; but his re-
ply was manly and one which ought to be
valued in the estimation of all men. He said:
"Gentlemen, I am no candidate for Lieuten-
ant Governor; I do not wish the empty
honor. I have a position that pays me
well. But, if my services are so much in
demand as you seem to think, nominate me
for Governor and I will accept. I would
rather be Sheriff of Bolivar county than to
hang to the skirts of any man as his Lieuten-
ant."

For the colored men to have two places on
the ticket there did not seem to be any spe-
cial objection, but to have three there was
a decided opposition by a large majority of the
white Republicans. And I do not believe
that more than a dozen of them, out of over
one hundred delegates, voted for the colored
aspirant for the third position; and it was
only by a determined and united effort on
the part of the colored delegates, together
with a few white delegates, that we were
able to get all the colored men on the ticket
that we desired. And ever since the ad-
journing of the convention, over six weeks
ago, certain efforts were being made by a few
social acquaintances of one of the defeated
candidates to make room for him on the
ticket at the expense of one of the regular
colored nominees; and matters are now
worked up to such a pitch that it is expected
that an effort will be made by our executive
committee, which is now in secret session, to
bring about a change on the ticket! Should
the effort succeed, it will be the means of
entering a wedge in the ranks of the Republi-
can party of the State. The colored men
are determined not to submit to it. But
some of the white men on the committee
(and they have a two-thirds majority) think

they can make almost any change and we
will submit quietly to them. But in this they
are sadly mistaken. The person whom these
few men wish to place on the ticket, after
being fairly defeated, is really the most ob-
noxious white Republican in the State—ob-
noxious I mean to the colored Republicans,
who cast ninety-nine one hundredths of the
votes of the party. Our white friends must
be made to remember that their social pre-
ferences will have no weight whatever in po-
litical organizations. We now see the sad
mistake we made in not establishing a free
paper last summer when we obtained a char-
ter for that purpose. The charter, however,
holds good; the company is organized, and it
is very probable that we shall commence
publication the latter part of this or the first
of next year. A few wealthy white Republi-
cans have already professed pecuniary as-
sistance as silent stockholders; and, when
started, we will bid for public work like other
journals. All we ask, in the name of the
people, is

JUSTICE.

Interesting Letter from Florida.

NEWNASVILLE, FLA., Oct. 15, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

Sirs: After a pleasant travel of four days
from your city, I arrived at Gainesville,
Alachua county, on the 10th ultimo.

Gainesville is the county seat, having a
respectable number of inhabitants, and
rapidly growing in industry among all classes.
My first acquaintances were the Hon. J. T.
Walls, member of Congress, and General
William Birney, county solicitor. These
gentlemen are well thought of here, politi-
cally and socially, and, doubtless, exert a
large influence, which must result for the
good of the county and State.

The next day, 1st instant, the Charitable
Union Association of Gainesville, composed
of colored young men and ladies, gave their
first anniversary, a demonstration which I
had the pleasure of witnessing, where Gen-
eral William Birney, orator of the day, de-
livered a fine oration, pointed, unquestion-
ably the speech for the occasion. He was
followed by Mr. Walls and others in timely
addresses.

One attractive feature of the demonstra-
tion was the presence of the regularly or-
ganized brass band (colored) of this village,
which favored the audience with a number
of their choicest pieces; in fact, the whole
affair was a handsome display, both in attire
and conduct. The educational prospect of
the colored people is good. The demand for
teachers in this section of the State is greater
than the supply. The people prefer reliable
and competent colored teachers whenever
they can be secured, not that there is any
deliberate or lack of confidence in the white
instructors.

There are two academies in Gainesville,
East Florida Academy (white) and the
Union Academy, (colored), in which Miss
C. M. Sewell, of Washington city, is an
assistant teacher. In this county there are
several other villages, each of which have
fine schools in active operation. The school
at Newnasville numbers from a hundred and
forty to fifty pupils. Macanopy and Archie
have excellent schools, in charge respectively
of Messrs. George Johnson and Black, of
Philadelphia.

The schools at each of these points are
allowed by law a principal and assistants.
Florida has a well regulated common-school
system, supported in the usual way by tax-
ation, together with the Peabody fund; teach-
ers receive good salaries, and paid promptly
in legal currency.

Alachua county holds out fair inducements
to enterprising young men as producers, law-
yers, doctors, and teachers. The colored
people as a general thing are becoming re-
spectable land owners as purchasers and
homestead settlers. The lands are fertile,
especially the hammock localities, and with
proper fertilization and drainage, when neces-
sary, will always yield an abundant crop.
The recent report of the commissioner of
agricultural resources of Florida verify this
statement.

One desirable object here deserves a passing
notice, that is a healthy school, such as
I would commend—the NEW NATIONAL
ERA AND CITIZEN, because its columns con-
tain wholesome matter, and, therefore, cap-
able of developing national pride and love of
country. We see no reason why that your
paper cannot have a larger circulation here
than what it has.

The New Era, formerly published by a
Democrat in this county, was recently bought,
with all appurtenances thereto, by Mr. J. T.
Walls. The New Era has completely chang-
ed from Democratic fanaticism to unfalter-
ing Republicanism, and strange to say that
not more than a baker's dozen of the old
Democratic subscribers have drawn their sub-
scriptions from the paper.

Almost every paper in the State, irrespec-
tive of party proclivities, has noticed Mr.
Walls' new enterprise by the usual editorial
compliment on his *about* of journalism.

We have every reason to be assured that
the New Era will be a power in the develop-
ment of Florida's natural resources, political
and social prosperity.

Yours, &c., LEWIS.

WASHINGTON, FLA., Oct. 16, 1873.

My dear Editor New National Era and Citizen:

Believing that a few lines occasionally from
the western section of this State, would be
of some interest to the many readers of your
paper, I have embraced the opportunity of
dropping you these few lines concerning the
colored-school exhibition, under the manage-
ment of Mr. John Cornwall and daughter,
which came off in this village on the nights
of the 10th and 11th instants, in the new school
building erected by the Freedman's Bureau,
in 1868.

On the whole, I am proud to say that the
exhibition was quite a success, considering
the short time that the scholars had had for
anything like a respectable showing and con-
sidering the many disadvantages that Mr.
Cornwall has been compelled to undergo in
keeping up a school here in our midst. Not-
withstanding all the drawbacks, in his way,
he has done remarkably well, and has made
a decided improvement among the scholars,
for which he should receive the congratulations
of their parents and the community at large.

And I will here state that although we
have a school building which was erected by
the Freedman's Bureau, yet I must say that
the people of the naval reserve receive no
assistance whatever for the support of their
schools or teachers; and, furthermore, in
consequence of their living on the reserve,
and not being subject to State taxes, they
cannot receive any State aid whatever, and
in view of this the people are compelled to
keep up their schools by voluntary contribu-
tions, which system is very defective, indeed,
and the people generally soon become tired
and careless, hence at the end of the month
many of them fail to pay their monthly con-
tributions, and in consequence of this failure
on their part, the teacher, in many instances,
has to go without his pay; and it seems to be
utterly impossible to get them to form them-
selves into a school association, with proper
officers, &c., for the purpose of keeping up a
regular school system, or organization. No
one seems willing to assume any responsibil-
ity whatever, and by their neglect the
teacher in our midst has to go short of his
money in many instances.

We have here on the reserve no less
than three hundred children who are old enough
to go to school, and I can truthfully state
that out of that number you cannot find more
than eighty attending school, while on the
other hand, amongst the whites, you can find
a daily attendance of at least one hundred
and fifty scholars; besides there is a great
many who generally attend the night
schools, in consequence of having to work
during the day to support their mothers,
while a majority of our colored children are
found in the streets, sitting on corners, and
generally doing every thing that is bad, and
all of this, very children, is due to the parents
of these Mr. Elkins, who do not seem to
realize the fact that these very children, who
they are now depriving of an education, will
soon be called upon to take the place of their
fathers and mothers, and if they are not edu-
cated to meet this great responsibility what
will be their fate? Why they certainly will be
at the mercy of every land-shark in the
world, and will not be able to take their
places alongside of the present white genera-
tion.

We need here in our midst colored men and
ladies of different professions. First of all,
we want competent teachers; second, law-
yers; and third, doctors; and many other
professions which I need not mention just
now; but what we really ought to have just
at this time are teachers and doctors, and I
know that it would reflect credit and honor
upon Warrington were some of our young
youths now prepared and ready to enter
some of our institutions North to prepare
themselves for one of the professions which
I have above alluded to.

As I have said already, perhaps, that
I should have said, and for fear that I have
likewise trespassed upon your valuable time,
I shall close by subscribing myself, one for
the

CAUSE OF EDUCATION.

From Mississippi.

SAVANNAH, GA., Oct. 11, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

Sectional and entirely local affairs are gen-
erally of little interest or importance to
the country at large. Articles or letters, in
my humble opinion, intended for publication
in a paper of the character and standing of
the NEW NATIONAL ERA AND CITIZEN,
should be of interest and of concern to the
whole country as far as possible. As the
NEW NATIONAL ERA AND CITIZEN is the
national organ of the colored people, and the
defender and exponent of Republicanism, I
have always thought that questions involving
great principles in politics, and furthering the
advancement of education, mechanism, agri-
culture, and, in fact, all the industrial pur-
suits of the country, are the most appropriate
and more generally and attentively read than
any other.

It can be of no earthly use to the whole
American people to know that John Smith
was not selected a delegate to a county con-
vention last night because Tom Brown, his
neighbor, voted for William Jones. But it
might be of interest to know that Smith,
Brown, and Jones were inventors, writers,
lecturers, because their labors would then
be felt directly and indirectly in their com-
munity, and consequently be of some assist-
ance in the moral and physical development
of mankind.

However, I think that a letter from Sa-
vannah would not prove entirely uninter-
esting, as Savannah, next to the executive de-
partment at Atlanta, is considered as a
very hot-bed of proslavery and rebellious
sentiments. At a better future time, perhaps,
I will give you a letter bearing directly on
the dangerous and alarming condition of
affairs in Georgia.

But to the object of this communication.
Monday, the 12th instant, was a day that
will long be remembered in Savannah. The
morning papers had announced that the cor-
nerstone of the First Bryan Baptist church,
situated on Bryan street, near Farm, would
be laid at half-past three that day by the
Grand Lodge for Georgia, over which M. W.
L. B. Toomer presides.

At 3 o'clock precisely the Grand Lodge
moved from their hall, together with Eureka
and Hilton Lodges, and headed by the Wash-
ington Cornet Band, the first brass band in
the city or State, and which is composed
entirely of colored men. The procession was
lengthy and made a very fine appearance,
and elicited the admiration of the entire com-
munity. The Grand Lodge had just received
a very handsome set of new jewels, and as
this was their first appearance in public in
this State, they were anxiously looked for
by the white brethren, and the event will
become a part of the history of the colored
people and of the State.

The site selected for the new edifice is that
recently occupied by the old wooden building
erected nearly one hundred years ago, but
which was torn down to give place to the
brick structure now commenced, which is
about ninety feet by sixty-five feet, and will
cost about \$17,000.

Long before the time arrived for the cere-
monies of laying the corner-stone, the street
was densely packed with people of all ages,
sexes, and conditions; house-tops, trees, and
fences were in active demand. The hour
having arrived, the ceremonies were opened

by a very appropriate prayer by Rev. J. M.
Simms. A piece of music was then sung by
the choir, after which the ancient ceremonies
of laying the stone was performed in a very
impressive manner by the Grand Master, L.
B. Toomer.

Rev. U. L. Houston, pastor of the First
Bryan Baptist church, then introduced the
Rev. Dr. H. M. Turner, acting Grand Chap-
lain of the Grand Lodge for Georgia, as the
orator of the day. Rev. Dr. Turner, on tak-
ing the stand, proceeded to deliver one of the
most eloquent and effective addresses ever
delivered in this city. He gave a very inter-
esting history of the laying of corner stones,
which has been a revered custom since the
building of King Solomon's Temple, that
magnificent building designed by David and
executed by the most ancient of Grand Mas-
ters.

The orator gave a lengthy description of
the origin and significance of the laying of
foundation stones, and read several portions
from the Bible and New Testament in sup-
port of his arguments—he was "proud to
assist in the dedication of an edifice to the
worship of God, to education, morality, truth,
and intelligence." What is needed to make
the church a success is an educated ministry;
the pulpit of Georgia was growing under an
ignorant ministry, both white and colored;
the day was rapidly passing away when an
ignorant, corrupt pulpit could carry and con-
trol the colored people by relating a dream—
and in that dream was seen a heavy cloud,
and out of that cloud came a white figure—
but they never could see a black one—and
the figure told him so and so must be done.
This superstition was rapidly giving way to
the light of knowledge and truth.

The speaker then gave an interesting his-
torical sketch of the old building which stood
on the site on which the new edifice is about
to be erected. His recital of the trials and
sufferings of old Andrew Bryan over a hun-
dred years ago in his efforts to plant the
light of religion among his race in Georgia,
was listened to with great attention by the
masses of audience. Rev. Dr. Turner then
read from